

REMARKS

The examiner objects to the abstract because it contains the term “invention.”

The application includes claims 1-20 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner allows claims 7, 10-12, and 14.

The examiner finds claims 4 and 17 allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner indicates claims 8, 9, and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner objects to claims 8-9, 19, and 20 because of informalities.

The examiner rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. patent publication number 20030099240).

The examiner rejects claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons (U.S. patent number 6,282,196) in view of Lee.

The examiner rejects claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons in view of Lee and Bharucha '821 (U.S. patent number 6,229,821)

The examiner rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lyons in view of Lee and Chauffour (U.S. patent number 5,870,397).

The examiner rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Bharucha'821.

The examiner rejects claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee and Bharucha'821 and Burger (U.S. patent publication number 20030028661).

The examiner rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Chauffour.

The examiner rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Chauffour and Bharucha '056 (U.S. patent number 6,345,056).

The applicants amend claims 4-6, 8-9, 12-13, and 17-20 and cancels claims 1-3 and 15-16 without prejudice.

The application remains with claims 4-14 and 17-20 after entering this amendment.

The applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Specification Objections

The applicants amend the abstract to delete all instances of the “invention.”

Claim Objections

The applicants amend claims 8-9, and 19-20 to obviate the examiner’s objections. Although the examiner did not appear to object to claims 12-13, the applicants nonetheless amended claims 12-13 to improve clarity and provide antecedent basis where necessary.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants thank examiner Moore for allowing claims 7, 10-12, and 14. The applicants note that claims 8-14 depend from allowed claim 7 and are thus in condition for the examiner’s allowance.

The applicants rewrite claims 4 and 17 in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claim. Claims 5-6 and 18-20 depend from claims 4 and 17, respectively, and are thus in condition for the examiner’s allowance.

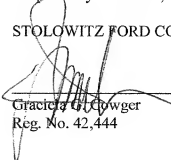
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-14 and 17-20 are allowable and ask the examiner to pass this application to allowance. If the examiner has any questions or believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the applicants encourage the examiner to call the undersigned at (503) 224-2170.

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Respectfully submitted,

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